

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 772
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to bemoan the sad and premature departure of
Senator Bud Gilbert from the Tennessee
Senate.

WHEREAS, the Senate is an august body known for its deliberation and its spirited
debate, a gathering of men and women of conviction and consideration; and

WHEREAS, Senator Clyde Coulter "Bud" Gilbert has embraced and embodied these
qualities as evidenced by his intellect, his logic and his vocal stamina; and

WHEREAS, in the annals of the Tennessee State Senate, Bud Gilbert will be
remembered for his quick and incisive intelligence, his firm and consistent convictions, and his
perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds (the Senator from Wilson); and

WHEREAS, the Harvard-educated Senator has humbly served the citizens of
Tennessee, and particularly of Knox county, having in his own mind and in the minds of most
others of reasonable and objective judgment, distinguished himself as the most capable,
knowledgeable and erudite Senator from Knox county since Senator Ben Atchley; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert has been more bulldogged than the Bull Dog without
making an "Ashe" of himself, having never hesitated to champion unpopular causes such as
governmental ethics and Prohibition (because you don't need the cup of coffee if you haven't
had the liquor); and

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WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert has spearheaded the struggle for stringent legislative ethics which has resulted in the near-extinction of lobbyists wining and dining legislators as well as battling for more restrictive alcohol laws which have abolished the influence of the alcohol industry on the legislature (okay, maybe not, but he tried); and

WHEREAS, along with his stellar legislative victories, Senator Gilbert has sometimes suffered defeat against Goliaths such as Bell South, the banking industry, the tobacco industry, and Darth Vader in his fight for justice when many would have chosen the path of least resistance and swiftest ascendance; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert's hyper-attentive consideration of legislation (also known as "reading the bills") and fine-tuning through the amendment process (known as "meddling") has resulted in the coinage of the term "to Gilbertize," a verb which will continue to be used with the same degree of reverence after his departure; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert will be long remembered for his impassioned oratory, specifically the affecting saga of "Sparky," his childhood pet turtle whose story figured into one of the great Senate debates: the adoption of a state reptile; and

WHEREAS, The senator from Big Orange country has never shunned controversial issues, even if it denied his staff free University of Tennessee football tickets; and

WHEREAS, the void left by Senator Gilbert will be noted each session during last minute efforts to pass ethics legislation and, although the culmination of his work has often been stymied and the achievement of his goals elusory, Senator Gilbert has earned the dogged and persistent support of Whitt Burcham, Don Peterson, and Dick Williams and the reward of three Bird Dogs (all of whom are howling in protest); and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert's retirement has resulted in a positive fiscal impact since the General Assembly will be less red ink pen-dependent; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert's commanding physical presence will be fervently and breathlessly mourned by those female admirers who follow loyally "behind" him and whose

appreciation for him is based on his most outstanding callipygian attributes (the line really does form at the rear and includes, but is not limited to, Club President Micki Yearwood, Lisa Cooper and Allison Dollar); and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert's absence will be lamented by the Senate back row delegation (Tommy, Steve and Jerry) of which he is an honorary member and fellow conspirator; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gilbert has chosen to heed both his self-imposed term limit pledge and his biological clock (perhaps the Senate will someday be graced with Senator Bud Gilbert, Jr.); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we extend our most heartfelt admiration, friendship and best wishes to Senator Bud Gilbert who has served honorably and well in the Tennessee State Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Senator Gilbert with this final clause omitted from such copy.